

**Vermont Advisory Board for Children and Youth  
With Special Mental Health Needs**

**June 9, 2006  
AHS Secretary's Conference Room  
Waterbury Complex  
12:00-3:00**

*Present:* Guy Wood, Jeff McKee, Sherry Nelson, Ted Tighe, Jo-Anne Unruh, Julie Welkowitz  
*Absent:* Carla Brisson, Kreig Pinkham,  
*Guests:* Steve Gold, Steve Dale, Paul Blake, Sherry Burnette, Alice Maynard

**I. Housekeeping**

- Approved minutes of April meeting.
- 2005 appointments. Guy will speak with Bob Kline of Casey Family Services.
- 2006 appointments. Alice reported that we have three very good nominees for the service provider position. Jeff will speak with Cindy Smith.

**II. Updates**

Members who participated in the May 1<sup>st</sup> kick-off event for the expanded Act 264 groups agreed that the day was well organized, the presentations were of good quality, and there was enthusiasm from LITs about the possibility of support. Thanks to Jo-Anne, the Board had a table with its 2006 recommended priorities; it sparked some good conversations. On June 14, there will be a follow-up meeting of the planning committee to review and discuss the next steps submitted by the LITs; Jo-Anne continues as the Board's representative on that committee.

**III. Meeting with AHS Deputy Secretary Steve Gold**

Guy welcomed Steve Gold (AHS Deputy Secretary), Steve Dale (DCF Commissioner), Paul Blake (VDH Deputy Commissioner for Mental Health), and Sherry Burnette (AHS Trauma Coordinator).

Members reviewed the 2006 recommended priorities for the interagency system of care. Steve G. noted that considerable progress had already been made on several of these issues. Sherry Schoenberg is on board as .5 FTE for training support to the expanded LITs and there are 3 task forces working on different aspects of transition. Steve D. elaborated that the Governor is very interested in transition to adult life and had chosen 3 strategies to start:

- Vermont Promise Scholarships
- Mentoring (legislature cut proposed funding in half)
- Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care bill; unusual in that all three branches of government are focused on the same issue at the same time
  1. acknowledges there is inadequate support
  2. requires DCF to pay attention to the three task forces and to present a comprehensive review to the legislature
  3. Medicaid issues
  4. DCF, VDH, and DAIL report on needed supports and anticipated costs
- Justice for Children is a group meeting due to the Vermont Chief Justice's interest
- The Jim Casey Foundation is sending a presenter about what the Foundation has learned working with various states. Steve Gold will inform the Board about the results of this meeting and how this Board can connect and help.

Jeff noted that the Board is pleased to see the proposed support for the Act 264 infrastructure. The Board would also like to see more accountability around interagency system of care goals and objectives; this will require data. The Board would like to be involved in the discussion about what is being considered for evaluation. Steve D. suggested that the planning committee meet with the Board to report on developments.

Sherry Burnette reported that AHS now has 1-hour, 3-hour, and 8-hour trainings for AHS staff to increase capacity for trauma informed staff throughout the agency. She asked how to connect what she knows with what the Board has recommended. She will return to talk about it at the November 10 meeting; Julie will meet with Sherry before that to outline specific questions for her to address.

Jo-Anne referred to the progress on the 2005 recommendation on autism. She reported that DOE Commissioner Richard Cate has recommended a network of regional teams to help build consensus about priorities and possible next steps. She inquired about AHS follow-up to the white paper. Paul replied that the topic is part of the new budget building process under Medicaid Global Commitment; there is some concern regarding the financial cap. Steve G. noted that the competition for the remaining “growth” funds will become more intense. We will have to ask questions about what we can stop doing in order to shift to evidence based practices and to newly emerging promising practices. Paul noted that we will have to build forums in which to have these discussions; we will learn as we go. Alice noted that the Board had met with Claire Bruno of DOE and Clare McFadden of AHS when they finished the white paper and are scheduled to meet with them again in September to hear about emerging consensus on next steps. Steve G. said he would like to attend with Steve D., Paul, and DAIL Commissioner Patrick Flood. Alice will notify people.

#### **IV. Planning for Fall Meetings**

- July 14 meeting: re-scheduled to **July 25**; Weeks room 100; final questions set for fall meetings.
- **August** meeting: **cancelled**
- **September 8**; Skylight conference room: conversation re autism and solicit input from Commissioners and Deputies
- October 13: re-scheduled to **October 6**; possibly Skylight conference room; full day; input from SIT and LITs in am; in pm, input from advocacy groups (VT Federation of Families; VPIC; Parent to Parent; VT Autism; NAMI-VT; VT Foster and Adoptive Parents; Family Consortium)
- **November 10**; Weeks room 100: 30 minutes with Sherry Burnette and Julie W; any remaining Commissioners; begin formulation of priority recommendations
- **December 8**; Weeks room 100: finalize priorities and design presentation format and language